

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2232

To provide for increased international broadcasting activities to China.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 1997

Mr. ROYCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on International Relations

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## A BILL

To provide for increased international broadcasting activities  
to China.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Radio Free Asia Act  
5       of 1997”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress makes the following findings:

8               (1) The Government of the People’s Republic of  
9       China systematically controls the flow of information  
10      to the Chinese people.

1           (2) The Government of the People’s Republic of  
2       China demonstrated that maintaining its monopoly  
3       on political power is a higher priority than economic  
4       development by announcing in January 1996 that its  
5       official news agency Xinhua, will supervise wire serv-  
6       ices selling economic information, including Dow  
7       Jones-Telerate, Bloomberg, and Reuters Business,  
8       and in announcing in February of 1996 the “In-  
9       terim Internet Management Rules”, which have the  
10      effect of censoring computer networks.

11          (3) Under the May 30, 1997, order of Premier  
12      Li Peng, all organizations that engage in business  
13      activities related to international computer  
14      networking must now apply for a license, increasing  
15      still further government control over access to the  
16      internet.

17          (4) Both Radio Free Asia and the Voice of  
18      America, as a surrogate for a free press in the Peo-  
19      ple’s Republic of China, provide an invaluable source  
20      of uncensored information to the Chinese people, in-  
21      cluding objective and authoritative news of in-coun-  
22      try and regional events, as well as accurate news  
23      about the United States and its policies.

1           (5) Radio Free Asia currently broadcasts only  
2           5 hours a day in the Mandarin dialect and 2 hours  
3           a day in Tibetan.

4           (6) Voice of America currently broadcasts only  
5           10 hours a day in Mandarin and 3 ½ hours a day  
6           in Tibetan.

7           (7) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America  
8           should develop 24-hour-a-day service in Mandarin,  
9           Cantonese, and Tibetan, as well as further broad-  
10          casting capability in the dialects spoken in Xinjiang  
11          and other regions of the People's Republic of China.

12          (8) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America, in  
13          working toward continuously broadcasting the Peo-  
14          ple's Republic of China in multiple languages, have  
15          the capability to immediately establish 24-hour-a-day  
16          Mandarin broadcasting to that nation by staggering  
17          the hours of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America.

18          (9) Simultaneous broadcasting on Voice of  
19          America radio and Worldnet television 7 days a  
20          week in Mandarin are also important and needed ca-  
21          pabilities.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR IN-**  
2 **CREASED FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE ASIA**  
3 **AND VOICE OF AMERICA.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
5 INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING TO CHINA.—In addition  
6 to such sums as are otherwise authorized to be appro-  
7 priated for “International Broadcasting Activities” for fis-  
8 cal years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized to be ap-  
9 propriated for “International Broadcasting Activities”  
10 \$46,900,000 for fiscal year 1998 and \$31,200,000 for fis-  
11 cal year 1999, which shall be available only for broadcast-  
12 ing to China.

13 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

14 (1) RADIO FREE ASIA.—

15 (A) Of the funds authorized to be appro-  
16 priated under subsection (a) \$26,900,000 is au-  
17 thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998  
18 and \$21,200,000 is authorized to be appro-  
19 priated for fiscal year 1999 for Radio Free  
20 Asia.

21 (B) Of the funds under subparagraph (A),  
22 \$1,200,000 is authorized to be appropriated for  
23 each such fiscal year for additional personnel to  
24 staff Cantonese language broadcasting.

25 (C) Of the funds under subparagraph (A)  
26 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year

1           1998, \$900,000 is authorized to be appro-  
2           priated for additional advanced editing equip-  
3           ment.

4           (2) 1998.—

5                 (A) Of the funds under subsection (a) au-  
6           thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998,  
7           \$11,800,000 is authorized to be appropriated  
8           for capital expenditures for the purchase and  
9           construction of transmission facilities.

10                (B) Of the funds under subsection (a) au-  
11           thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998,  
12           \$3,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated to  
13           facilitate the timely augmentation of transmit-  
14           ters at Tinian, Marshall Islands.

15           (c) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be  
16   appropriated under subsection (a), the Director of the  
17   United States Information Agency and the Board of  
18   Broadcasting Governors shall seek to ensure that the  
19   amounts made available for broadcasting to nations whose  
20   people do not fully enjoy freedom of expression do not de-  
21   cline in proportion to the amounts made available for  
22   broadcasting to other nations.

23   **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

24           Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment  
25   of this Act, in consultation with the Board of Broadcast-

1 ing Governors, the President shall prepare and transmit  
2 to Congress a report on a plan to achieve continuous  
3 broadcasting of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America to  
4 the People's Republic of China in multiple major dialects  
5 and languages.

6 **SEC. 5. REDUCTION IN AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**  
7 **TIONS FOR MIGRATION AND REFUGEE AS-**  
8 **SISTANCE.**

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such  
10 amounts as are authorized to be appropriated for “Migra-  
11 tion and Refugee Assistance” for fiscal year 1998 shall  
12 be reduced by \$21,900,000 and for fiscal year 1999 shall  
13 be reduced by \$6,200,000.

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